

ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY CHURCH



PARISH INFORMATION

Rev. Msgr. Thomas Koons, Pastor
Mrs. Karen Glose, Director of Music
Mrs. Mary LaBianca, Adult Choir Director
Mrs. Susan Parker, M.Ed., Principal of Good Shepherd Catholic School

Mrs. Susan Parker, Director of Religious Education
Ms. Joanne Manning, Parish Secretary
Mrs. Deborah Heckenberger, Youth Activities

Rectory Address: 2174 Lincoln Avenue, Northampton, PA 18067-1257
Rectory Phone: 610-262-2559
Rectory E-Mail: bvm1922@rcn.com
Religious Education: 610-262-7343

Rectory Fax: 610-262-1613
Website: www.bvm-northampton.com
Religious Ed. E-Mail: bvmspirit777@rcn.com

Good Shepherd Catholic School: 610-262-9171

Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator: Ms. Wendy S. Krisak, M.A., NCC, LPC
Direct Telephone: 1-800-791-9209

Diocesan Safe Environment Coordinator: Sister Meg Cole, S.S.J., M.S., LMFT
Telephone: 610-332-0442 Ext. 2019

Courage: 610-334-9147

Diocesan Website: www.allentowndioocese.org

Masses

Saturday	4:00 p.m.
Sunday	8:00, 10:30 a.m.
Weekdays	8:00 a.m.
Holy Days	7:00 p.m. [Vigil] 6:45 a.m.; 8:00 a.m.

Confessions

Saturday	3:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. or by request
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Baptism

Every Weekend after Mass on request. Baptismal preparation classes are the first Saturday of every month at 10:00 a.m. in the classrooms above the church. Please call the rectory in advance to schedule class attendance and Baptism.

Sponsors

Parishioners need to meet with Msgr. Koons to determine whether they are eligible to serve as a sponsor for Baptism or Confirmation. Please call the rectory.

Marriage

Please call the rectory at least one year in advance to schedule a wedding. Attendance at diocesan Marriage Preparation Classes is required six months prior to the wedding date, as well as three or four sessions with the priest. Current Baptism and Confirmation certificates are needed for the Catholic parties. In the case of previously existing marriages, a death certificate or declaration of nullity is necessary before another marriage can be considered.

Parish Registration

New parishioners are always welcome and are asked to register at the rectory. Please notify the rectory if you change your address, phone number, or move out of the parish.

Communion to the Sick

Communion is taken to the sick after the Sunday Masses and during the month. The Anointing of the Sick is celebrated with individual homebound parishioners several times a year or at your request. Please call the rectory to request being included on the homebound Communion list.

Please call the rectory when parishioners are admitted to a local hospital.

**Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish
Third Sunday of Advent – December 15, 2019**

Daily Masses

Dec. 16,	Monday	8:00 a.m.	†John Marhefka	Children
Dec. 17,	Tuesday	8:00 a.m.	†Carroll Clayton	Linda & Vinnie Santucci & Family
Dec. 18,	Wednesday	8:00 a.m.	†John Filipovits	Wife, Ann
Dec. 19,	Thursday	8:00 a.m.	†Connie Marth	Eleanor Lessel
Dec. 20,	Friday	8:00 a.m.	†Catherine Holena	Irene O'Donnell
Dec. 21,	Saturday	4:00 p.m.	†Stephen Kerbacher, Sr.	Wife, Helen, Daughter, Stephanie, Son, Stephen and Family
Dec. 22,	Sunday	8:00 a.m.	†Catherine Arnst	Granddaughter, Debra Kay, & Family
		10:30 a.m.	Living & deceased members of our Parish	

Next Week's Schedule: Lector:

Dec. 21, Sat. 4:00 p.m. S. Parker

Dec. 22, Sun. 8:00 a.m. M. Heist
10:30 a.m. (Children's Mass)

Euch. Min.:

R. Shearman

K. Bennett
J. Nicosia

Altar Servers:

J. Warren/H. Warren

W. Cuchran
G. Miletics/D. Conrad

Greeters:

L. Bet/P. Schuler

N. Birosik/D. Cesanek
H. Stempo/B. Yezzo

Sanctuary Lights are burning this week in loving memory and for the pious intention of Connie Marth requested by Husband, Conrad, and Family.

Please pray for God's blessings and the gift of good health for the sick people of our parish. Also remember in your prayers Jeffrey Crocus, brother of Jacqueline Saylor, and Philippe Doiron, brother of Bella Skweir, who died recently.

Good News!

December 15, 2019

Third Sunday of Advent (A)

Is 35:1-6a, 10; Jas 5:7-10; Mt 11:2-11

“Here is your God!” Who wouldn’t run to see this marvel? Isaiah 35 tells us what to look for: nature will explode with excitement and splendor, and the hardships of life will no longer hold us captive. Is this really possible, or is it merely hopeful poetry? Jesus tells the disciples of John the Baptist that it’s possible. In fact he, Jesus, is the one who has ushered in the kingdom of heaven. Since that is true, why don’t you and I see it?

The reading from James sheds light on this. There is something truly wondrous about earth bringing forth “precious fruit” (James 5:7). Our understanding of how the development and emergence of fruits occur does not make the fact of natural growth any less wondrous. Farmers know this well. They also know that such growth will occur only when human labor cooperates with the laws of nature designed by God. In other words, the farmer provides the labor while God provides the life-giving sun and rain.

If our world does not resemble Isaiah’s astonishing portrait or the healing that Jesus was able to accomplish, might it be that we have not done what we can to remedy the hardships of life that hold so many captive? When God enters our lives, he provides us with the power we need to change our world, but we must be willing to allow that power to work through us. If we are open to God in our midst, our world will be rich with life and healing, and everyone will know that God is really here.

—Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

Calendar:

Monday – December 16

Advent Weekday
Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a
Mt 21:23-27

Tuesday – December 17

Advent Weekday
Gn 49:2, 8-10
Mt 1:1-17

Wednesday – December 18

Advent Weekday
Jer 23:5-8
Mt 1:18-25

Thursday – December 19

Advent Weekday
Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a
Lk 1:5-25

Friday – December 20

Advent Weekday
Is 7:10-14
Lk 1:26-38

Saturday – December 21

Advent Weekday
Sg 2:8-14
Lk 1:39-45

Sunday – December 22

Fourth Sunday of Advent
Is 7:10-14
Rom 1:1-7
Mt 1:18-24

- Rel. Ed. Classes** : Sundays, 9:00 - 10:05 a.m.
- 7th & 8th Grade Rel. Ed.** : Wednesdays, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
- Choir Rehearsal** : Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m.
- Children's Mass** : Sunday, Dec. 22, 10:30 a.m.
- Donut/Giving Sunday** : Sunday, January 12, 2020
- Prayer Shawl Meeting** : Tuesday, January 21, 10 a.m.
- Breakfast** : Sunday, January 26, 2020
- Confirmation** : Thursday, March 5, 4:30 p.m.
- Church Picnic** : Sunday, September 13, 2020



Lighting of the Advent Wreath [Week Three] – [Before the evening meal, the family gathers at table.] **Leader:** Father, to you belong the seasons and the ages. **All:** *You are the beginning and the end of all things.* **Leader:** O Desired One

of the nations, may we always be awake and alert to your coming. **R - Come and make us one.** **Leader:** O Judge of the living and the dead, reward us according to our deeds. **R - Come and make us one.** **Leader:** O Bringer of Salvation, fill us with joyful longing for your coming. **R - Come and make us one.** **Leader:** Lord, hear our prayers and come to us, bringing light into the darkness of our hearts; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **AMEN. [Two purple candles and the one rose candle are lighted and left burning during the meal.]**

Christmas Eve: On Christmas Eve starting at 8:30 p.m. the Choir will sing Christmas Carols. Come and enjoy the caroling followed by our Eucharistic Celebration at 9:00 p.m. Merry Christmas!

Children's 2020 Envelopes are located in the Church vestibule. Please look for yours and take them home.



Winter Weather: With the return to colder temperatures and the possibility of snow and ice, we ask everyone to exercise caution when using the front church steps. A recommended alternative would be to enter thru the side entrance and use the interior Steps/Elevator.



Stocking Stuffer: Need a stocking stuffer? Or just a little something to add to a gift for that special person? The Parish Fund Raising Committee is sponsoring a monthly lottery calendar for January 2020. The calendars are \$5 each and the winners are based on the **evening daily** Pennsylvania Lottery number. Calendars will be on sale before Mass the weekends of December 21/22 and 28/29. Also, on Sunday, December 15. Calendars must be purchased prior to January 1, 2020.

Oplatky (Christmas Wafers) will be available (free will offering) in the church social hall all weekends during Advent. The 2020 Calendars, which are free, are now available in the church social hall, compliments of Schisler Funeral Home.

"Greeter" Needed to greet people as they come into church and also hand out bulletins after the 8:00 a.m. mass on Sundays. If you are interested in helping the parish through this act of service, please call the rectory at 610-262-2559.

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

- Christmas Eve : 4:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m.
- Christmas Day : 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Presentation of the Gifts: We invite and encourage you to participate in the offertory procession at Mass. This is especially appropriate if you have requested the Mass, or if the Mass is being offered for a family member or friend. If you would like to present the gifts, please see one of the greeters at least fifteen minutes before Mass begins.

HAVE YOU NOTICED the **CareNotes** display in the back of the church? CareNotes offer helpful ideas and inspiration on dealing with some of life's most difficult moments. Please help yourself



SAVE ALUMINUM PULLTABS – Save the pull tabs from cans of soda and bring them to the church. Place them in the receptacle in the lobby of the church. Tabs will be taken to the Ronald McDonald House in Philadelphia. The tabs are recycled and generate income to defray the cost of running the Ronald McDonald House, where parents of chronically ill children stay while their children are being treated in nearby hospitals.

Church Decorating For Christmas: Anyone who would like to help with the Christmas decorating is asked to come to the Church on **Saturday, December 21, at 8:00 a.m.**

VICTIM ASSISTANCE COORDINATOR

The Diocese of Allentown provides assistance to anyone who, as a minor, was sexually abused by a priest, deacon, or employee/volunteer of the Diocese/Parish. Parents, guardians, children, and survivors of sexual abuse are invited and encouraged to contact the Diocese of Allentown for more information about this program. The fullness of compassion should be extended to these victims by the Church.

Victim Assistance Coordinator
DIRECT TELEPHONE NUMBER
1-800-791-9209

Email: victimassistance@allentowndiocese.org

To learn more about the Diocese of Allentown's Youth Protection Programs, Sexual Abuse Policy, and Code of Conduct, please visit www.allentowndiocese.org and click on "Youth Protection" in the upper right-hand corner of the page.

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BREAKFAST

Sunday, January 26, 2020

TICKETS WILL BE SOLD
AT THE DOOR ONLY

ADULTS \$7.00

CHILDREN \$3.00

MENU

French Toast

Pancakes

Scrambled Eggs & Hash Brown

Choice of: Sausage, Bacon or Ham

Omelet your way & Hash Brown

Cheese Steak Omelet & Hash Brown

Includes: Juice, Toast, Coffee or Tea